



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

January 18, 2011

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your December 8, 2010, letters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of your constituent, Ms. Kimberly Wells, Director of Business Development at Engineering Consulting Services, regarding the Leeco, Inc. Stacy Branch Mine.

EPA is currently negotiating with James River Coal (Leeco's parent company) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, to develop special permit conditions for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for this project. These negotiations are part of the Enhanced Coordination Procedures for surface coal mining applications as detailed in the June 11, 2009, Memorandum of Understanding among the U.S. Department of Army, U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Implementing the Interagency Action Plan on Appalachian Surface Coal Mining.

We appreciate Ms. Wells' concern for both the economic and environmental consequences of this project and for the welfare of the citizens of the community of Vicco and Perry County. EPA will fully consider Ms. Wells' concerns in our present negotiations and in developing any final recommendations for this project.

If you have any questions or require any additional information from EPA, please contact me or the Region 4 Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (404) 562-8327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming".

 Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
Regional Administrator

cc: Jim Townsend, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

104-10-002-0535-C

REPUBLICAN LEADER

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

2010 DEC 14 P 1:58

December 8, 2010

Ms. Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
Regional Administrator
US EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Fleming:

I am writing you on behalf of one of my constituents, Ms. Kimberly Wells, Director of Business Development at Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. Ms. Wells requests your support for the Leeco, Inc. Stacy Branch Mine in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a copy of Ms. Wells' letter. Please enquire into this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Thank you for taking the time to address this concern.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/ek

November 29, 2010

RE: Leeco, Inc.
Stacy Branch Mine – LRL 2007-0217
Kentucky Permit #897-0480

Dear Senator McConnell,

I'm writing to request your support for the Leeco, Inc. Stacy Branch mine. James River and Leeco are good corporate citizens that quickly respond to many needs in our community. As you may know, many of our local residents have historically depended on mining related jobs in the area. Vicco is a Historic Appalachian Mining Community with a population of 313. We have always found James River and Leeco to be good corporate citizens and willing to listen and address any concerns or problems that local citizens have. Coal severance tax provides a substantial amount of money to our community every year. These monies depend on active coal production and go away if mining does not continue.

The Stacy Branch operation is expected to produce 1,800,000 tons of coal. This should produce approximately \$4,100,000 in Kentucky severance taxes and \$3,500,000 in other tax revenues over the life of the job. It will provide 34 jobs directly and 100 indirect jobs in the surrounding area.

The residents of the community of Vicco and Perry County have been provided more than adequate public notice of this operation on many occasions and have been well aware of the plans with many opportunities for comment.

We are all concerned with our environment. James River, as a member of Coal Mining Our Future has won a Pride Envy Award for being good stewards of the environment. The mining and reclamation methods of today are much improved from the past. Local citizens know their rights under state and federal regulation and know how to lodge complaints.

In conclusion, we request and ask for support this operation and are confident that our state government can provide proper oversight to protect the local residents. Please remit any letters of support to :

Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, Regional Administrator

*US EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303*

Copies to Deputy Regional Administrator: A. Stanley Meiburg

Chief of Staff: Scott Gordon, Acting

James D. Giattina, Director, Water Protection Division

As always, Senator, I appreciate all your help and Support for Eastern Kentucky and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. You are a great asset to the Commonwealth and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wells

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate
OFFICE OF
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

REPUBLICAN LEADER

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

December 8, 2010

2010 DEC 14 A 1:57

Mr. A. Stanley Meiburg
Deputy Regional Administrator
US EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Meiburg:

I am writing you on behalf of one of my constituents, Ms. Kimberly Wells, Director of Business Development at Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. Ms. Wells requests your support for the Leeco, Inc. Stacy Branch Mine in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a copy of Ms. Wells' letter. Please enquire into this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Thank you for taking the time to address this concern.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/ek

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate.

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR

2010 DEC 14 A 1:57

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
SUITE 108
LEXINGTON, KY 40503
(859) 224-8266

300 SOUTH MAIN
SUITE 310
LONDON, KY 40741
(606) 864-2026

601 WEST BROADWAY
SUITE 630
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554